

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES,

-v-

No. 05 CR 00503-LTS-6

VERA NGWA,

Defendant.

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ORDER

The Court has received a letter from Vera Ngwa requesting expungement of her 2005 criminal conviction in the above-captioned case. (Docket entry no. 147.) Ms. Ngwa's letter has been redacted to protect personal telephone contact information and the unredacted version will be filed under seal.

Ms. Ngwa is not challenging her conviction. Rather, her letter explains that she completed her sentence many years ago and that, despite her consistently positive behavior, her conviction history will impede her ability to go back to college and become a teacher. Unfortunately, the Court does not have authority to grant Ms. Ngwa's request for expungement. Where, as here, a request for expungement is brought years after a valid conviction and completion of the sentence imposed, the court does not have the power to assert jurisdiction over, or grant, requests for expungement of such. Doe v. United States, 833 F.3d 192, 196 (2d Cir. 2016). The only federal statute providing for such judicial relief is 18 U.S.C. section 3607, but that statute limits the types of convictions that may be expunged to offenses under section 404 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 844.) Ms. Ngwa's conviction was not for a

violation of this statute. The Court therefore does not have power under current law to exercise jurisdiction over this request or to grant it. Accordingly, Ms. Ngwa's request is denied.

The Clerk of Court is respectfully directed to mail a copy of this order to Ms. Ngwa, at the below address.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
October 28, 2021

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain
LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief United States District Judge

Copy to be mailed to:

Vera Ngwa
254 Crescent Street
Top Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11208